

## Is it Perfin Design 9 or J45?

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I came across an interesting perfin-precancel. The precancel is Sag Harbor, NY on a 12¢ Benjamin Franklin definitive (Scott Catalogue number 512). The perfin designs are Design 9 "Calipers" and a partial of J45 "JFC". Checking *The Catalog of United States Perfins*, I found that the identified user of perfin pattern J45 is Faly's Watch Cases of New York City. The Appendix also indicates that J45 has been found on Sag Harbor, NY precancels. Checking the catalog for Design 9, I found that the user was Alvin Manufacturing Company of Sag Harbor, NY. The Appendix offers no additional information.



It would seem that these companies are somehow connected. Sag Harbor is on the extreme eastern end of Long Island about a hundred miles (as the crow flies) from New York City. It is located in an area frequently frequented by the wealthy in the summer in the towns of East and South Hampton. Sag Harbor's permanent population is about 3,000.

Perhaps, Alvin Manufacturing Company (Design 9) in Sag Harbor manufactured the watch cases that were sold in the New York City offices of Faly's Watch Cases. In any case, as a result of the precancel, we know that the stamps for the New York City office were purchased in the Sag Harbor Post Office. The appearance of two perfin designs on a single stamp indicates that the companies were somehow connected.

One other item of conjecture, perhaps Design 9 is a representation of a watch escapement rather than a pair of calipers.

In order to permit me to investigate this mystery further, I would appreciate receiving photocopies of covers using perfins J45 and Design 9 plus any other information on these two companies.